



NATIONAL PAVILION OF QATAR AT THE 61ST INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION – LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA ANNOUNCES CULINARY AND MUSICAL PROGRAMME FOR 11 AND 12 JULY 2026

Two-day programme features Italian-Egyptian chef Walter El Nagar, Italian chef Marco Ambrosino, and Polish-British beverage designer Anna Patrowicz

Artist Tarek Atoui will present Frame Drums, a percussion performance featuring musicians from Lebanon, Italy, and France

Commissioner: Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani

Curators: Tom Eccles and Ruba Katrib

Produced by: Qatar Museums

Presented by: Rubaiya Qatar

Exhibitors: Rirkrit Tiravanija, Sophia Al Maria, Tarek Atoui, Alia Farid, Fadi Kattan

VENICE, 6 July 2026 — The National Pavilion of Qatar at the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia announced details for its next culinary and musical activations, organised by Palestinian chef Fadi Kattan and Lebanese artist Tarek Atoui, taking place on the 11th and 12th of July.

Presented as part of the exhibition *untitled 2026 (a gathering of remarkable people)*, the programme welcomes Italian-Egyptian chef Walter El Nagar, Italian chef Marco Ambrosino, and Polish-British beverage designer Anna Patrowicz to serve Mediterranean food and mocktails that draw from various cultures and histories from across the region. Alongside the food program, Tarek Atoui will present *Frame Drums*, working with an ensemble of frame-drum percussionists rooted in different traditions from the Middle East and beyond. Conceived as a space for exchange, dialogue, and improvisation, the collective performance will include Uriel Barthélémi (France), Christelle Njeim (Lebanon), Francesca Remigi (Italy), and Khaled Yassine (Lebanon).

Together, these contributions explore hospitality as an artistic and cultural practice, using food, drink, and music to foster dialogue, exchange, and community.

Fadi Kattan said, "Hospitality begins long before we sit at the table. It starts with the people who grow our food and the traditions they carry. Bringing Walter, Marco, and Anna into this chapter celebrates different ways of understanding hospitality, showing how food and drink can be a language for dialogue, curiosity, and connection."

Tarek Atoui said, "*Frame Drums* brings together performers from around the world for a musical dialogue grounded in close listening and intuitive response. My collaborators, who come from Lebanon, Italy, and France, bring with them traditions that span geographies and histories, which they have infused with new ideas that reflect contemporary times."

Commissioned by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums; produced by Qatar Museums; and presented by Rubaiya Qatar (Qatar's contemporary art quadrennial), *untitled (a gathering of remarkable people)* is co-curated by Tom Eccles (Executive Director, Center for Curatorial Studies and the Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College) and Ruba Katrib (Chief Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, MoMA PS1). The monthly music and culinary programme takes place inside a tent-like structure designed by Rirkrit Tiravanija to serve as a space for cultural exchange, supporting different forms of participation and artistic intervention. Also on view in the Pavilion are screenings of *DAMAR TV* (2026), an experimental narrative film by Qatari-American artist Sophia Al-Maria, and *Jerrican* (2026), a large-scale sculpture by Kuwaiti-Puerto Rican artist Alia Farid.

About the Chefs

Walter El Nagar is an Italian-Egyptian chef whose work positions hospitality as a form of activism. Through his culinary projects, he explores food sovereignty, migration, and the social responsibility of the kitchen, creating spaces where cooking becomes a catalyst for dialogue, dignity, and community. Drawing on his Egyptian and Italian heritage, El Nagar's practice challenges conventional notions of fine dining by placing care, inclusion, and cultural exchange at its centre.

Marco Ambrosino is one of Italy's leading contemporary chefs, recognised for a culinary philosophy rooted in research and the cultural history of the Mediterranean. Originally from the island of Procida, his work approaches cuisine through the lenses of anthropology, ecology, and migration, tracing the movement of ingredients, traditions, and people across borders. His cooking proposes the Mediterranean not as a fixed geography, but as a living, evolving cultural landscape.

As part of the Pavilion programme, beverage designer Anna Patrowicz will present a bespoke mocktail inspired by the botanicals, ingredients, and the culinary traditions of Palestine and the wider Arab world. As beverage designer at Akub in London, she has developed a distinctive approach to hospitality rooted in cultural storytelling. A long-time collaborator of chef Fadi Kattan, Patrowicz has contributed her beverage designs to projects across the UAE, Qatar, Ireland, Norway, and Switzerland.

About the Musicians

Uriel Barthélémi (France) is a drummer, composer, and electronic musician whose work also encompasses sound, video, and visual installations. He has had works commissioned by the French Ministry of Culture, the National Theater of China, the Sharjah Art Foundation, and Steirischer Herbst, among other organisations. He was laureate of the SACD Fund in 2023.

Christelle Njeim (Lebanon) is a percussionist and a member of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra.

Francesca Remigi (Italy) is a Milan/Berlin-based musician. Honoured by Nuova Generazione Jazz in 2021 and winner of the 2024 Pathways to Jazz award, Remigi has collaborated with musicians including Dee Dee Bridgewater and Kris Davis and has performed at the Tashkent Jazz Festival (2024), North Sea Jazz Festival (2024), Jarasum Jazz Festival (2024), and Montreaux Jazz Festival (2025).

Khaled Yassine (Lebanon) is an award-winning, self-taught percussionist based in Beirut. He has performed and recorded with local and international artists such as Al Di Meola, Warda, Rene Mclean, Erik Truffaz, Bojan Z, Charbel Rouhana, Arthur Satyan,



Oumeima, Soumayya Baalbaki, Ghazi Abdel Baki, and Ilham Al Madfai. In 2003, Khlaed co-founded the renowned Lebanese fusion band Fun Jan Shai, which has collaborated with many well-known musicians including Lebanese oud player and composer Ziad Al-Ahmadieh and Jordanian singer Macadi Nahhas.

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Event Details

Dates: 11–12 July 2026

Venue: National Pavilion of Qatar, Giardini della Biennale, Venice